IN DISMAL SWAMP

NYE SAYS IT IS VERY HEALTHY, ASIDE FROM SOME THINGS.

Many Other Things Have Happened, but the Dismal Swamp Today Shows No Signs of Wear and Tear-William on

> [Copyright, 1895, by Edgar W. Nye.] THE DISMAL SWAMP,

NANSEMOND COUNTY, Va. Many of my readers are not aware that there is a hotel at Lake Drummond, in the heart of the Dismal swamp. Formerly the site was occupied by the Poverty. It was so called because povertymakes strange bedfellows. The new hotel is much more extensive, having a plank floor and two more panes of glass.

Life at the hotel reminds one of the glorious days in Venice. The grand canal, full of dark red stump water and moccasin snakes, flows gently past the portcullis of the new hotel, the Ponce de Leon, and guests are permitted to drink freely of it.

The stranger is greatly surprised to find that this canal has a current into the lake and outward also. One does not notice where the change takes place, somewhere in the middle of the canal, but one end flows toward the sea and one toward the lake. Lake Drummond is 8 to-12 feet higher than the surround-



INTERVIEWING AN OLD NATIVE.

ing country, and as there is no soil generally but a vast penty, springy mattress of dead vegetation, covering 100,000 acres, it is thought that the lake occupies a vast basin six miles by three, burned out as the result of a lightning

It is altogether one of the strangest phenomena in the known world. To my surprise, it is a very healthful place, aside from the poisonous serpents and vegetation, and the water in the canal. though the color of umbrella juice or trouble. the broth of a tanyard, is delicious if you can forget the snakes.

It is fresh spring water colored by the roots of juniper and cypress, and those who dwell in the Dismal swamp live on and on and on.

One man, colored, was shown to me | mother is the proprietor. as a very old inhabitant of the swamp, a cypress shingle maker who assisted Adam in naming the wild beasts of Virand he says there was not. He says that kind we raise. a bee tree which George cut down with his little hatchet, and when he told his father about it and showed him how claimed: "Come to my arms, my truththe Trilly Phosphate works on Sanday Some one enght to tell George Da Maurier and Mr. Paul Potter that Virginia now has a Trilby phosphate for feetilizing the soil. We are also talking

some of changing the name of Mount Pisgah, in North Carolina, whose head pierces the clouds, and whose massive feet spread over two counties to Mount Mr. Arnold, the author of the small

book entitled "Uncle Aleck and His Mule," says, "I can take a retrospective view of the past. In this respect he is to be congratulat-

ed, I think. Yet what better way is there to look at the past than that? You might almost say that one has no choice in the matter.

Dynasties have arisen, dynastied and fied. Rome has had her day, boomed, flickered and passed away. Grocce has sovered the face of the known world with her power, and yet today a little ammonia would remove her from the

Yet the Dismal swamp has changed but little. Its giant gums, like those of the hippopotamus, wave to and fro. The high and white topped waves of Lake Draumond in stormy weather lash the leaden sky, and the farreaching scream of the catamount pierces the dense cane brake where lies the venomons serpont,

Onward, over onward, the insane lover in the misty night traces new ways through the

Tangled juniper beds of reeds And many a fen where the serpent feeds And man never trod before.

But the firefly lamp of his loved one ever and ever recedes in the solemn night, and silently her birch cance melts into the gray of dawn as the weary and fainting lover, now over 200 years of

age, sits down in the bright red stump water of this huge home of despair and lessolation. In 1821, according to old Uncle Tony, mighty nice looking man came to Norfolk and got Tony to carry him out

to the lake. He kept his eyes open all the way, gave Uncle Tony a pound and wrote in his novebook all of the time Years and years after, when people told Uncle Tony that his passenger was Tom Moore, the Irish poet, who wrote the sad and beautiful poem of the insane | air, rich cream and insolvency. lover who followed the phantom cance

and firefly lamp of his sweetheart, the old man was quite thunderstruck.

I will now tell a true story about makes. One day a gentleman living today in Suffolk saw in his path through the swamp a large ball of snakes about the size of a cock of hav. A great many other snakes were constantly joining the wriggling mass. He decided to discharge his winchester, the magazine of which was full at the time, into the massive

ed some of them and found one that as an indignation meeting to pass resolutions against the Keeley cure.

I have made some trifling changes in this story because I thought that it had been already tampered with, and I did not care to have it go forth over my name with any elements of improbability about it.

Mr. Arnold, whose book I have re- for the protection of an umbrella." ferred to as unique in many respects, says that "one very interesting place near the swamp is a farm which once "for all the religious people know that belonged to George Washington. It is at I am the chief paster of this town."the extreme south and now owned by Youth's Companion. Mrs. John Trotman, and she has in her possession the original title deeds of every person who has owned the place at various times from Washington down to was showing an American gentleman Brothers, Esq., of Gates county, N. C."

of Marshal Ney's life in North Carolina. | that is a steel receptacle weighing 12 I find the following two items of in-

ty was fined \$100 and sent to jail for three months."

ended in the assignment of Kittelle, proprieter of the Phoenix. It is charged that ice from the dead body of Charles Johnston was used for tea and water in the hotel. The guests left. It is claimed for the hotel that a rubber sheet was placed between the ice and the body. The hotel will be put under new management by the assignee."

Hotels cannot be too careful about such things, for, aside from all idea of sentiment, as a matter of business two prices for the same ice is unfair. In fact, the typical mean man who used to be located in New England seems to have swapped latitudes.

I am nowadays in the depths of haying, and, though peace and harmony reign in the south where once the shrick of shot and shrapnel and shell marred the summer stillness, now the red nose brier and the bull thistle and the crab grass grow where once the army mule and comp d'etat possessed the land, yet when I drive my nice, new red mower into the bosom of a hornets' nest the old war memories come back to me, and I remember, with a shudder, how nigh I made economicall. We solicit the care once came to obtaining grounds for a and sale of property for non-residents. pension

I also have a new Ohio havrake, or horse havrake-not a quadruped, but a rake, an inanimate rake to rake hay with, yet one that Maud Muller might rake hay with and yet not occasion talk. It was made in Ohio, and I bought it of Joseph E. Dickerson of Asheville, to

be paid for out of the hav. It is three feet wider than my farm, however, and I had to get a right of way over an adjoining farm or have

Mine is a very slim farm, and the crops are similar in some respects. We have a new colt on the place, but he is not yet accustomed to his new legs. He can barely stand up when propped against the lunch counter of which his

Corn looks pale and ill even in this delightful climate, and when I put my crop on the market this fall prices will ginia and made George Washington his be affected only temporarily. I like to first squirt gun. I asked him if there live on a farm and buy corn to suit my was any truth in the cherry tree story, taste instead of trying to subsist on the

Farming as I do it is the most inde pendent and the sweetest life one can live. I buy the best of corn and hay for he had hived the swarm and secured a my borses, of which I have four only, washtub full of honey the old man ex- as I hire my farm work done, and the carriage horses of the loud, coach variety ful son. If you are a good bey next would step on my whole crop before week, I will take you out and show you dinner time if I used them for plowing

> We keep three cows, but buy our butter for two reasons. First, these are kodak cows and are used by the children as artists' models. We get cream and photographs from them. The second res-



A DISPLAY OF TEMPER. son I do not now recall. We have our washing done in Asheville, and the farmhands, after playing croquet with me all the morning, rarely feel like work, as I give way to my temper and fine literary organization sometimes and erash in their cerebrators with a mallet, Of course I do not claim to make the farm pay. It is all I can do to make tnybody pay, but the farm as a farm

has never paid unless you estimate that the board of six people on the farm is worth \$7,200, and even then we must take out of that \$200 for taxes and insurance and \$9,000 for groceries and

pop, of which we are passionately fond. No; I did not take up farming as a means of livelihood, and I can no longer conceal that fact from the public. I took up farming in order to prove to my wife what a free and independent life it is, with its golf, its tennis, its pure



Prima Donna and Clergyman In the "Life of Karl von Gerok." a

man distinguished as a poet and as a minister of the gospel, an incident is given which illustrates not only his kindly spirit, but his quick wit:

He was one day walking in Stuttgart. serpentine pill and run. He did so, and carrying an umbrella. At the same time on the following day he returned to the the prima donna of the Stuttgart opera

spot, where he tound 1,500 dead snakes troop was tripping along the sidewalk, and as many more wounded. He measure without that protection against the without that protection against the weather. Suddenly rain began to fall, measured 48 feet, with a waist and bust and Herr von Gerok offered the lady the measuring 57 inches. This convention of shelter of his umbrella. - Though entire snakes, it seems, had been called together strangers to each other, they had a pleasant chat. After awhile the reverend gentleman remarked:

"May I venture to ask your name?" "It is plain to see that you never go to the opera," answered the lady. "Everybody knows that I am the leading singer at the Court theater. Now it is my turn to ask to whom I am indebted

"Your question clearly proves that you never go to church," was the reply,

In St. Paul's one day a London guide last purchaser, who was Burrell round the tombs. "That, sir," said the man, "his the tomb of the greatest na-This reminds one of the new title used in a Hickory paper recently—viz, "Rev. Major James D. Weston," the author coughhogus weighs 42 tons. Hinside tons, and hinside that is a leaden casket, terest in my home paper, published not 'ermetically scaled, weighing two tons. Hinside that his a mahogany coffin 'old-"A woman moonshiner of Polk counting the hashes of the great 'ero." 'Well," said the Yankee, after thinking awhile, "I guess you've got him. "A hotel sensation at Winston has if he ever gets out of that, telegraph me tt my expense."-Argonaut.

> "I think," said the cheerful idiot, "that it will not be long before the fellow who was arrested for the murder of that man Saturday will be convicted."

> "Do you think he is going to confess! asked the landindy. "Oh, no," said the cheerful idiot. "I base my idea on the fact that the confine ment in prison may tell on him."-Indi-

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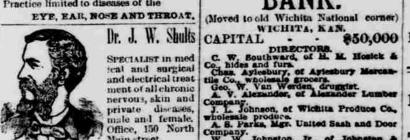
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